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HANGED.

George Stephenson Strangled to Death.

Rope Stretched on Neck Would Have Broken.

Brave to the Last he Died Without a Tremor.

A Splendid Job. Quickly Done.

Stephenson spent his last night on earth as calmly and peacefully as if nothing was on his mind. He complained a little of being disturbed by noise about the jail and said that but for that he would have slept all night. Mrs. DeBord, who had been very kind to him all the time, prepared a nice breakfast for him with especial care, which he ate with great relish.



GEORGE STEPHENSON.

The condemned had dressed himself with scrupulous care in a black suit furnished by the sheriff and looked more like he was about to be married than to be hanged. At 8:20 the march to the scaffold began, Stephenson walking unattended and still showing no signs of emotion. Reaching the gallows Sheriff Owens told him that he could say anything he wanted to. Facing the crowd, which occupied the hill above, forming a sort of an amphitheatre, the Negro said in tones loud but not tremulous:

"I want to talk to the congregation. My sins are pardoned and I am going to my resting place. It makes me love God and all my enemies. In my heart is the spirit of Jesus. If I should see you all no more, I hope to meet you in Heaven. I have nothing against anybody. That is all I have to say."

Rev. G. W. Gillispie, colored, of the Paint Lick Baptist church, then prayed long and fervently that God would save the dying man and when he concluded at 8:30, Stephenson stepped on the trap, buttoned his coat and smoothed himself out. Sheriff Owens at once began to adjust the noose, while Deputy W. Logan Wood strapped the legs and arms, the latter behind him. Deputy J. C. Lynn pulled the black cap over the still calm looking face. Sheriff Owens stepped quickly to the lever and at 8:32 the form shot through the trap. There was a slight swing around, some drawing up of the feet and efforts to release the hands, then the motion almost ceased. Drs. W. B. O'Bannon and C. M. Thompson took hold of the wrists and found that the pulse showed 112, an increase of 4 from the time he left the jail. Heart beats continued for 23 minutes when he was pronounced dead and cut down.

The rope stretched two feet and it is thought that from that fact his neck was not broken. The death by strangulation was not, however, with the usual awful contortions and the face afterwards showed no signs of anguish, nor had the rope cut into his neck.

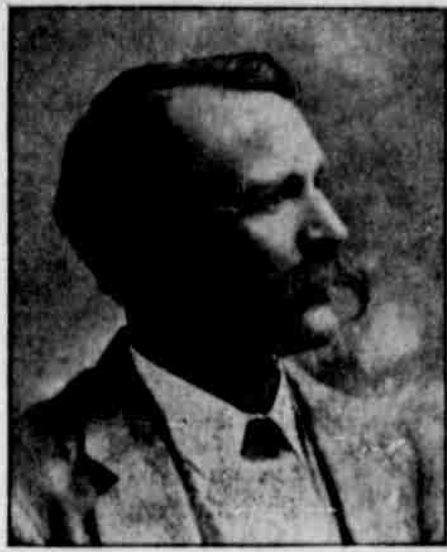
Coroner Wm. Langraf with the following jurors examined the remains: Samuel Helm, T. H. Wright, William Cordier, Sam Bishop, C. F. Epperson and John Baugh and returned a verdict in accordance with the facts.

The body was taken to the house of Lindsay Stephenson, a brother, who lives in town, where it was kept till the afternoon when it was taken to his father's and interred.

Before starting to the gallows, Stephenson told a reporter of this paper that he was going to maintain to the last that Tilford was the boy who threatened to kill him, as he was sure of it, but in his speech he said nothing about it.

The triggers used were the ones made by John M. Stone for the scaffold built for Anthony Alcorn, who was executed.

Owing to the dimness of the light in jail, Sheriff Owens got one of our reporters to read the death warrant, Stephenson standing unmoved during the reading.



SHERIFF SAM M. OWENS,
Who sprung the trap.

Sheriff Owens is to be congratulated on the neatness and efficiency that he performed a disagreeable duty. He did his work coolly and deliberately and has the satisfaction of knowing that everything passed off in the most satisfactory manner. There was no disorder and the job was over before half the people in town knew that it was progressing.

Gov. Bradley sent a dispatch to Sheriff Owens Wednesday to proceed with the execution as he would not interfere.

There is one of two things certain. Stephenson either did not realize the situation or was the most thoroughly converted and satisfied man that ever lived. Let us hope the latter is true.

It was originally intended to have the hanging at 11 o'clock, but for some reason the sheriff changed his plans and many got here after the job was over. The town was, however, pretty well filled with people, many arriving here by daylight.

Men were in the tops of trees and on houses trying to get a glimpse of the awful scene, while hundreds of eyes pierced through the cracks of the plank walls. About a dozen were on the scaffold and possibly 50 inside the inclosure.

John Nevius and John DeBord were the death watch and say that Stephenson slept like a log. His last night they awakened him about 10 o'clock to eat watermelon, when he got up ate heartily and was soon snoring again.

These are the jurors who indicted the murderer: Dr. J. K. VanArsdale, H. J. McRoberts, A. C. Carman, A. C. Dunn, W. T. Saunders, Thomas Rankin, J. E. Wright, J. W. Hayden, Weeden T. Smith, Thomas Best, D. C. Peyton and J. T. Harris. The trial jury was as follows: G. E. Alford, J. G. Baugh, C. F. Epperson, W. M. Beck, J. P. Riffe, L. C. Carpenter, W. G. Cowan, A. B. McKinney, W. K. Shugars, J. A. Givens, G. C. Keller, Jr., and T. A. Coulter.

THE CRIME.

On the afternoon of the 4th of July last, while the town of Crab Orchard was filled with people gathered to attend a flag raising and hear patriotic speeches, they were startled by five pistol shots fired in rapid succession. It was soon spread through the crowd that George Stephenson had killed Joe Tilford, a white boy of 13. After firing the shots, five of which took effect in the boy's body, killing him instantly, Stephenson fled, but was captured after a chase by Marshal J. A. Shannon and others. While he was being taken to the little jail there, friends of the dead boy shot at him 10 times and one fellow drove a knife into his right shoulder, which made a severe wound, not fully healed at the time of execution. The officers finally got him in the lock up and then followed a scene hitherto unknown even to this section.

For hours a howling mob, with rope in hand, sought to deal dire vengeance on the Negro and more than once it seemed like a lynching could not be prevented. Sheriff Sam M. Owens happened to be in town and he went to the jail to thwart the designs of the mob if possible. He was almost powerless, for while many preferred to have the law take its course, they yet did not desire to risk their lives to that end. Mr. Owens threatened, begged and entreated, Judges M. C. Sautley and J. P. Bailey did likewise and it was through the heroic efforts of these officers, Cols. T. P. Hill, W. G. Welch and others that the lynching was prevented. Judge Sautley promised an immediate trial, Hill and Welch promised to prosecute the Negro and he was permitted to be started to Stanford. A mile or two this side of town they were met by a posse of 25 heavily armed men ordered thither by the sheriff, and the prisoner was safely landed in jail.

True to his promise Judge Sautley ordered a special grand jury next day and an indictment being found at once the trial proceeded as soon as a jury, which was easily gotten, was obtained. Cols. Hill and Welch assisted Commonwealth's Attorney Owens in the prosecution, while the court had to appoint lawyers to defend. He named Messrs. J. B. Paxton and J. R. Bush and they made the best of a poor cause.

It was proved that when Tilford came along the street, he was confronted at Wallin's saloon by Stephenson, who shot him without warning and without provocation. Stephenson swore and he was corroborated by several colored witnesses, that he had had trouble with Tilford about a base ball bat and that he threatened to kill him. When he came up the street and saw him, Stephenson said that Tilford cursed him and threw his hand behind him as if to draw a pistol. It was then he fired, as he thought, in defense of his life. The Commonwealth had witnesses to prove that no such demonstration or words were used by Tilford and that the quarrel over the bat described by Stephenson was with another boy. After occupying the court for two days and in three after the murder, Stephenson heard the verdict of the jury, which said he must die. He showed no emotion whatever, nor when the judge pronounced the sentence next day and fixed Aug. 18 for the execution.

Since his confinement, Stephenson has professed religion and, as has been stated, was baptized, a bath tub being used for the purpose. Jailor DeBord says he has been a splendid prisoner and has given him no trouble at all. Prison fare and confinement seem to agree with him, as he has gained 25 pounds of flesh since his arrest. No prisoner ever condemned to death has ever gone through the ordeal so bravely. A reporter visited him Wednesday and asked him how he felt: "Oh, I'm all right," he said. "Doesn't the fear of the gallows alarm you?" was asked. "No sir, 'tain't botherin' me?" In answer to questions he said he didn't have anything to say more than he has said all along, that he was willing and ready to die, and that he would make a speech on the gallows, if allowed. Asked if he wanted anything, he named a watermelon and a picture of himself that had been promised to him, when he sat for it, both of which were given him and he seemed as happy as a man under the most favorable surroundings.

Stephenson was the son of Chas. Stephenson and was raised near Walnut Flat. He was accused jointly with his brother, Robert, in the shooting of another Negro named Newland, and staid in jail here some time, but he was acquitted. He claimed to be but 17 years old.

The rope was obtained from F. Vonderheide, the Cincinnati expert in such matters, was made of hemp and cost with express \$10.55. It had been carefully tied and all that had to be done on the scaffold was to slip the noose over the culprit's head.



JAILOR G. W. DEBORD.

OTHER HANGINGS.

If there ever was a white man hanged in this county by law, the fact does not appear. Three other Negroes have been hanged, the last about 40 years ago, when one was executed for striking Levi Hubble, now deceased. That hangings and many are needed here, there can be no gainsaying, but it is a pity with such good white material for the work, that the revival of the business could not have commenced with a white man.

One white man, Jasper Rowsey, was hanged by mobs and two Negroes, the last to be lynched being a Negro for assaulting a 12-year-old child. He was swung from South Fork trestle.

About one month ago my child, which is fifteen months old, had an attack of diarrhoea accompanied by vomiting. I gave it such remedies as are usually given in such cases, but as nothing gave relief, we sent for a physician and it was under his care for a week. At this time the child had been sick for about 10 days and was having about 25 operations of the bowels every 12 hours, and we were convinced that unless it soon obtained relief it would not live. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was recommended, and I decided to try it. I soon noticed a change for the better; by its continued use a complete cure was brought about and it is now perfectly healthy.—C. L. Boggs, Stumpton, Gilmer Co., W. Va. For sale by Craig & Hocker, Druggists.

Queen & Crescent low excursion rat G. A. R. Encampment at Cincinnati. Ask your agent.

NEWS IN THE VICINAGE.

Boyle county will vote in November on issuing bonds for the purchase of turnpikes.

On Horse Lick, in Jackson county, James Garrett shot and mortally wounded Thomas Johnson, as the result of an old feud.

Fred Schafer, a tailor, who had been missing several days from Richmond, was found wandering around in a field near that city, a raving maniac.

A dog belonging to Charley Parks, of Parksville, bit a little daughter of W. D. Cozatt while she was playing with it, which should remind parents to keep their children away from dogs.

The Louisville Times says that D. Shanahan & Son, of Louisville, who built the Richmond, Nicholasville, Irvine & Beattyville railroad, may buy the property when it is offered for sale in September under decree of the Federal court.

Sutro, the California millionaire left \$3,000 to each of these members of the House of Representatives in 1870 who assisted in passing the Sutro Tunnel bill: William P. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, R. E. Ferris, of New York, Gov. Austin Brewer, of Michigan, Judge Willard, of Delaware, Strickland, of Maryland and J. Proctor Knott, of Kentucky.

Dr. W. M. Gibson, of this city, who went to Jackson county to look after the small-pox there, reports six deaths and 65 well developed cases. He believes that the epidemic is practically under control and has recommended to the State Board of Health that the quarantine, which applied to the entire county, be raised immediately.—Richmond Register.

LAND AND STOCK.

O. P. Huffman bought of J. H. Baughman 33 hogs at 34c.

White Fultz seed wheat, clear of smut, for sale. J. L. Beck, McKinney.

Frank Holtzclaw sold to Greenberry Bright a lot of yellow Fultz wheat at 15c.

FOR SALE.—Prime seed wheat, pure bred Southdown black lambs and fresh Jersey cows. F. Reid.

The Minneapolis Journal estimates the wheat crop of Minnesota and the Dakotas, at 190,000,000 bushels.

At Henry Daddings' sale of Lincoln sheep in England, one yearling ram sold for \$5,000 and 52 yearling rams averaged \$435.

Sales of 100 stock ewes at \$3.50, stock hogs at 34, shoats at 34 and heifers at 34 are reported in the Harrodsburg Sayings.

Ten carloads of machinery and 50 operators have been sent from Lexington to help thresh the enormous wheat crop of Dakota.

W. E. and Thomas Baughman bought of the other heirs the Baughman farm on the Lancaster road at \$40. It contains 325 acres.—Advocate.

Bird Matheny bought of W. L. Lawson, of Garrard, his farm near Procherville containing 250 acres for \$1,800 and will move to it at once.

Allen Kenney and George Harman raised between them about 12,000 bushels of wheat, says the Advocate. The former sold to Cogar & Co. 5,000 bushels at 85c.

Henry Neill, the cotton statistician, says a crop of 10,500,000 bales is now assured, with a million to a million and a half more within the range of possibility.

S. M. Owens made 1,540 bushels of wheat on 70 acres of land and Cash & McCormack threshed it out in less than a day. It was necessary to move the machine three times.

George F. Anderson sold to Ike Dunn 50 ewes at \$3.50, and to Robert Stephens 50 at the same price. W. M. Robinson bought of different parties about 200 hogs at 34c.—Advocate.

Robert Collier, of Boyle, has 447 hogs which he has bought recently at 34 to 3.60. He will feed them on new corn. Mr. C. bought 31 acres of growing corn in Garrard, which promises to make from 10 to 12 barrels per acre, for \$300, fodder and all.

M. S. and H. C. Baughman have both had to bring their Naboth pacers home and turn them out. They took the pink eye in Will Owings' stable at Danville and have not sufficiently recovered to be raced. The gelding, belonging to the former, stepped a quarter in 32½ seconds a short while ago.

Auctioneer Ben. P. Peak reports 478 cattle on the Georgetown market; no feeders; yearlings brought 44 to 48 per lb.; heifers 34 to 34; mule colts \$10 to \$35; horses \$35 to \$100, according to quality; no sheep; a few shoats sold at \$3.25. Kindig Bros., of York, Pa., bought on court day 19 mule colts at from \$12 to \$30. Lun Ferguson sold to Jonas Weil 120 cattle, averaging 1,335 pounds, at 4.—Times.

Queen & Crescent low rates to Cincinnati, Sept. 3d to 9th.

Low rates Cincinnati, Queen & Crescent during G. A. R. Encampment, Cincinnati.

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W. E. PERKINS, Crab Orchard, Ky.

WE WANT TO SAY

Right now a word about our Fall and Winter Shoes. Little Early but we are eager to call your attention to these goods. In the first place we have taken unusual care in selecting the stock and are pleased to know that we will be able to

Meet Every Want In Shoes.

Secondly, the prices that we expect to put on these goods will be attractive. Thirdly, our styles will be exactly right. Every mother that has a boy or girl that she wants to shoe substantially will be interested. These goods will be on hand in good season.

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